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TAB 18-Missing

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17 APR 1948

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1. US views concerning Austrian treaty negotiations--The US delegation to the Austrian treaty negotiations in London has been informed by the Department of State that it is not fully convinced that the USSR is prepared to negotiate a treaty which will insure adequate guarantees of Austrian political and economic independence. The delegation is advised, in recognition of the apparent Soviet desire to conclude an Austrian treaty, to negotiate for a treaty of maximum advantage to Austria. The Department indicates that the US position is based upon the considerations that: (a) troop withdrawals would not take place for a year after the conclusion of a treaty; (b) ratification of such a treaty could be delayed if a critical deterioration of the European situation should occur; and (c) the continued lack of a treaty could lead to Austrian partition, increased pressure to force the US out of Vienna, and the probable decline of US influence in Austria.

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